

CAUGHT IN A DEATH TRAP.

BURNING OF THE POTTER OFFICE BUILDING.
AT LEAST SIX LIVES KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN LOST AND THE LIST PROBABLY TO BE EXTENDED—TERRIBLE SCENES WHILE OCCUPANTS WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE—TWO LEAPING TO THE SIDEWALK AND FATALITY INJURED—OTHERS SUFFOCATED OR BURNED—A BADLY CONSTRUCTED BUILDING—THE LOSS OF PROPERTY NEARLY A MILLION DOLLARS.

The large brown-stone building on the north side of Beekman-st., extending from Park-row to Nassau-st., was burned yesterday. It was so constructed as to give the quickest possible escape to the flames and to obstruct the efforts of occupants to escape. The fire is thought to have started from a defective flue, and it ran through the building with appalling rapidity. The number of tenants was large on every floor except the one nearest the roof, and these tenants employed many people. There was a wild rush for safety. Two persons, whose escape was cut off, jumped to the sidewalk and received fatal injuries. Others were suffocated or overtaken by the flames. The loss of life is at least six, and may prove to be larger. The loss of property was nearly a million dollars. Several of the large buildings close by were damaged. The burned building was owned by Orlando B. Potter, and was formerly known as *The World Building*, when occupied by that paper. There was a deplorable crowd in getting aid to those in danger. Great clouds were attracted by the fire, and the excitement was overwhelming when people in the building were seen trying in vain to escape.

PROGRESS OF THE FLAMES.
The building which was burned was occupied daily by from 200 to 300 men, women and children. They were employed in the various offices, some of them scattered through the five floors. Some of them began to arrive as early as 7 o'clock, and within the next three hours every person had started on the work of the day. It was about 10:15 o'clock when the alarm was given. When the cry of fire was first heard it was not heeded by all those in the building. For a minute or two there was no evidence as to where the flames were. Nor was there apparent cause for haste. A fire had occurred from a defective flue in the building on the day previous, which was extinguished without the aid of the Fire Department.

The first cry of alarm, which was given in a husky voice by someone probably too excited to speak distinctly, was soon followed by a general shouting. Then men were seen rushing down stairs, and were heard scrambling from one place to another, all giving the alarm and urging those near them to make haste. It required only a few seconds for anyone to learn that his escape depended on speed. Minutes were precious. Persons who reached the stairs found the halls filled with blinding smoke. The elevator shaft seemed as a flue which carried the flames from the lowest floor, where the fire is thought to have started, to the roof. Paper and inflammable material in the hallways fed the flames and aided in producing a dense black smoke, which crept through crevices and filled every room. The stairways adjoining the elevator were soon attacked by the flames, and then all means of escape were cut off. A few men were daring than others dashed through the fiery furnace made by the burning stairs, and while some reached the street in safety, others have not since been seen. When the stairs caught the entire destruction of the building was inevitable. The flames quickly communicated to the offices on both sides of the stairway, and spread in every direction. Agonizing cries for help were then heard by those outside, but it was beyond human skill to reach those within. All those who were on the first and second floors are known to have escaped, and it is believed that almost every one on the third floor reached the street in safety. The loss of life was confined almost entirely to the fourth and fifth floors. The fourth floor had many tenants, but most of them are accounted for. The division of the fifth floor fronting on Beekman-st., formerly occupied as *The World* composing and editorial rooms, was vacant. The other part was divided up into smaller rooms, some of which were used as composing rooms, but the number of occupants was not large. It is certain that some of these did not escape, but how many cannot yet be determined exactly.

WHAT TO KEEP ON SAW.
Persons who passed the building a few minutes after the fire started beheld a sight which chilled their blood. Flames that were only dimmed by the thick smoke which enveloped them were seen leaping out of every opening in the building. In nearly every window was a man or a woman, shouting to the people in the street for help. They had rushed from their work as soon as possible, and all other means of escape having been cut off, they sought the windows. All were without hats; some had no coats; but they had their sleeves rolled up to the shoulder. Each window presented a distressing picture, the background of which was fire and smoke. The victims became wild with fright and despair. The crowd which had collected in the street, formed in part of those who had escaped from the building, stood mutely gazing on, unable to afford any relief to those in danger. Some persons rushed frantically around, looking for ladders or endeavoring to learn some way in which to assist the people. There was no time for delay, as the fire was rapidly eating its way to the windows in which the persons stood.

The alarm had been sent to the Fire Department and the engines responded as quickly as possible. But the interval was too long for some of these, who, in trying to avoid the dreadful heat at their backs, clung to the little ledge of the window sills. To linger in their position long meant death by burning; to jump a distance of sixty feet meant instant destruction. The crowd, by cheers and signs to wait until the engines arrived, tried to encourage the people, but their sympathy did little to allay the distress of those in peril.

One man on the fourth floor on the Park Row side was finally seen making ready to do something desperate. Carefully stepping from the sill on which he stood to the window further north, he lowered himself to a sign projecting between the window of the fourth story and the lintel of the third. The crowd breathlessly watched him, with bare head and shirt sleeves, creep slowly along the sign until he reached *The Times* Building. Once there he was quickly pulled into a window by willing hands. Mrs. Ellen Bull, a colored woman, janitress of several offices, was next seen at a window on the third floor on the Park Row side. The smoke had become too dense for her to stay at the window any longer, so wrapping her clothes around her and gesticulating to the crowd to move away from beneath she jumped into the air. She made two revolutions before she reached the ground, and then struck head foremost. Blood covered the spot instantly. The woman was then carried into an adjoining office and died within an hour. A Mrs. Allen was hemmed in on the second story. She walked around the eaves, and being only a short distance above the ground descended safely. Many other persons escaped from perilous positions, whose names were not known. A footblack climbed a telegraph pole and untied a wire which connected with the roof and had been used to swing a political banner. By this act communication was established between the building and the ground. Three men in the windows who had almost given up hope caught the wire and slowly descended to the ground.

ARRIVAL OF THE FIREMEN.
All these incidents occurred before the arrival of the firemen. The members of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 directed their attention to the part of the building in Nassau-st. The fire was then almost beyond control, and the efforts of the men were concentrated to trying to save life rather than property. When they were to the first ladder from the truck, three persons were in the windows almost hidden by the thick smoke which filled the air. One was a young woman, who threw her hat and cloak to the ground with the evident intention of following them. The firemen motioned to her to wait until a ladder was raised, but the woman suddenly uttered a piercing scream. It was then seen that her hair, which had become disheveled, was on fire. She threw up her hands and fell back into the burning building. Ladders were raised on the Nassau-st. side, but it was found that they were too short, and would not reach to the fourth story. Longer ladders were at hand, but they could not be used to advantage, as the telegraph wires, which stretched in every direction in front of the building, interfered. Tables were then used to raise the shorter ladders until they reached the windows of the fourth story. Five men were rescued on these ladders in Nassau-st.

One of the men who stood in the windows facing in Nassau-st. was Richard Davy. Several men of the insurance patrol procured a canvas which they held over the sidewalk for him to jump on. They gauged the canvas properly, but when the man jumped he went too far out and struck a telegraph pole. The force of the blow turned him over, he missed the canvas and struck his head on the curb. He died soon afterward.

FIREMAN HORN'S BEAVER.
While these scenes were being enacted by the firemen in Nassau-st., similar ones were going on in Park Row. Hook and Ladder Company No. 10 was stationed there, and the daring and bravery of private John J. Horn commanded the admiration of the spectators. He ran up the ladder in Park Row near the Beekman-st. corner, and rescued two men and one woman. To do this he had to be supplied with another ladder ten feet long, which was held by one of his companions on the first ladder. After that Horn placed the ladder against a room on the same floor near *The Times* Building. Two faces had been seen to disappear from the window. He could see nothing when the window was reached, as the room, which was nearly fifty feet square, was thick with smoke. Inside he heard groans. He jumped through the window and in a minute afterward reappeared with a man in his arms. The man was found almost unconscious, lying on the floor. Horn went into the room twice afterward, and each time he found a man almost lifeless from suffocation. As he descended with his last man the crowd cheered loudly.

THE LOSS OF LIFE HARD TO DETERMINE.
The number of persons supposed to be lost was a matter of conjecture all day. Some said that the loss of life was very heavy, while others asserted that most of the people had escaped. On the fifth floor, when the fire started, were the janitor and Mr. Potter, a son of the owner, who were both directing the work of carpenters and plumbers. As soon as the cry of fire was heard the workmen started to run. On the stairs they met others coming from the different floors, and they all reached the street safely. From this it was argued that most of the people must have escaped. The truth, however, will not be known until the debris is cleared away and the ruins searched. Applications were quickly made at the various stations for houses for missing persons, but some of these were heard from later in the evening.

The progress of the flames was so rapid that the upper portion of the building was filled with smoke and flame before the first company of firemen had arrived. This was Engine Company No. 7, under command of Foreman Jones. Two other engine companies and two hook and ladder companies came a moment later. Foreman Jones went to the fire alarm box and sent out a third call at once. Special calls for engines and hook and ladder trucks were telegraphed in rapid succession until thirty-six companies of firemen were gathered around the burning building. Chief-Engineer Bates, of the Fire Department, was on the spot ten minutes after the fire started, and he directed the efforts of the firemen, assisted by Battalion Chiefs Breslin, Giquel, Miller, Shays and Rowe. There had been a serious delay in sending out the first alarm, and many persons thought that the Fire Department had been slow in answering the summons. It was said later that the firemen arrived as promptly as possible after the alarm was sent out. Some of the engines which were called from a distance were delayed by the snow.

The firemen went to work with their usual courage and alacrity. While the members of the hook and ladder companies first turned their attention to rescuing persons from the building, the members of the engine companies attacked the flames. Had the day been calm there would have been some hope of saving the building, but the very onset of the violent snow storm proved a powerful factor in the work of destruction. The snow was blinding and the wind blew a gale from the north. Its direction, while it helped to save *The Times* Building, drove the firemen away from the Beekman-st. side, and put in imminent peril the buildings on the south side of the street. At 10:30 a. m. streams from a dozen fire engines were being thrown upon the flames, but the water seemed to have no effect. The interior of the building then resembled a roaring furnace. Dense columns of smoke rose upward, flames were hurrying from every window above the second floor, and clouds of sparks and burning cinders were whirled by the wind over the roofs of adjoining structures. Still the fire was at no time a brilliant spectacle. The smoke was so dense, and the air was filled so thickly with snow flakes, that the flames were more than half obscured, and they could not be seen easily at a distance of three blocks. Near at hand the fire presented a scene of confusion, horror and danger seldom equalled. Amid the crash of falling beams, the shouts of the firemen, and the roar of the fire engines, were heard the cries and groans of injured persons and the frantic appeals of persons in danger. The firemen, who at first mounted ladders against the building to throw streams in the upper stories, were soon compelled to seek safety in flight. Fanned by the pitiless storm, the flames rushed through the building like a whirlwind. Old firemen said they had never seen a fire spread with greater rapidity.

HALF AN HOUR AFTER THE OUTBREAK.
Half an hour after the first alarm was sounded the entire building was in the grasp of the devouring element. The roof was blazing and a flood of flame beat against the strong partition wall which protected *The Times* Building. Upon the strength of this wall the firemen rested their hopes of confining the fire to *The World* Building. One detachment of firemen under the direction of Chief Giquel directed streams upon the south portion of *The Times* Building, keeping the roof and walls wet. The heat from the immense body of flame confined in the building drove the firemen step by step away from the walls. As the roof and one floor after another lost its supports and fell, there were loud reports followed by rumbling sounds suggestive of thunder. At every recurrence of these reports the flames were thrown outward with increased violence and the walls vibrated in a threatening manner. South of the burning building the firemen were enveloped in smoke so thickly that some of them were nearly choked. Only a few moments before the smoke and heat became intolerable, and they were obliged to go into Park-row and Nassau-st. A force of fire was soon driven by the wind across Beekman-st. full against the two buildings opposite—the old *Mail* Building, fronting on Park-row, and the large unfinished structure owned by Eugene Kelly, which fronted on Nassau-st. The Kelly Building is so nearly fireproof that it was not in serious danger, but *The Mail* Building caught fire twice and it would have been destroyed had not a strong force of firemen defended it. Several streams of water

were kept turned against the building until the walls of *The World* Building gave way. The Beekman-st. wall of the burning structure went down about 11 a. m. with a deafening crash. The firemen, who were on the walls of the Post Office were so hot that they stepped and almost slipped. All the offices on the Park-row side were closed, and the heavy iron shutters were fastened. As a precaution every body was ordered to leave the rooms and corridors on that side, except on the lower floor, where there was a crowd of spectators.

At 11:30 a. m. it was evident that the firemen would attack the flames from spreading further. The occupants of *The Mail* Building fled from their rooms during the excitement.

WHAT WAS DONE IN "THE TIMES" BUILDING.
Tenants of *The Times* Building had packed up books, papers and other valuable articles and carried them to *The Tribune* counting-room and other places for safety. Among things carried out were the contents of desks and drawers containing papers and packages of types. As soon as the roof and the Beekman-st. wall of the building were seen to be uninjured, the flames were imprisoned within narrow limits, and ceased to threaten *The Mail* Building. Gradually the flames and the structure melted away in the flames, and at noon nothing remained except portions of the Park-row and Nassau-st. walls and heaps of burning debris. The flames did not burn long, and the remaining walls still threatened the firemen as they moved in the merciless storm.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.
The origin of the fire has not been determined. Some of those who escaped through the stairway said that they saw flames first on the second floor leaping through the elevator shaft. There is a fine close by the elevator, and it is thought that the fire may have originated from some defect in it. The engine room at the bottom of the elevator shaft and some believe that the fire started there. It was removed, without much apparent foundation, however, that the engineer had other duties to attend to besides his engine. When called away it was said that he was not in the building. Fire Marshal Sheldon, who was at the fire, intends to begin an investigation in a few days.

Despite the cold and the cutting wind, the progress of destruction was watched by thousands of people. Crowds gathered in Park Row, in Nassau-st., and in the City Hall Park and pressed eagerly toward the burning building. Against this tide of humanity the police tried to hold back the crowd. A brief time the firemen were impeded at their work. Captain Tynan, of the Fourth Precinct, was soon on hand with as strong a force of policemen as he could command, and a space on all sides of the building was cleared for the firemen. Captain Leary, of the City Hall police, went to Captain Tynan's assistance as soon as he learned of the fire. When the third alarm was given, the firemen were ordered to proceed to the scene, and after ordering out reserves from other precincts, the Inspector soon had 150 men at his disposal and he established fire lines in all directions. The police had a difficult task, for the fire was so rapid that the crowd for hours constantly engaged in keeping the crowds in check. City Hall Park and the P. S. Office Building were occupied from 11 a. m. until evening by interested spectators. The crowd was so large that it was impossible to see as the afternoon wore on, except the police and the firemen, but the ruins were watched with absorbing interest. The firemen were busy making a harvest from the anxious throng.

The street cars lines which meet at the Post Office Building were blocked all day. The cars were stopped soon after the fire started, and the street was blocked later by means of a wire stretched across it. The cars of the Blacker-st. Turnpike, Fourth-ave., Avenue B and Avenue D lines were ordered to pass through Park-row at a late hour last night.

CROWDS UNTIL AFTER DARK.
The crowds of persons anxious to see the fire braved the terrible storm, slush and the cold until after dark. About 3 o'clock a storm of sleet with a brisk east wind made it very disagreeable out of doors, but the crowd did not lessen, and persons anxious to get along the north side of Park-row had to walk around the Post Office Building and pass through the City Hall Park to escape it. The police were very careful to keep the crowds from entering their corridors. Persons who wished to enter their offices in *The Times* Building, or to go to Nash & Crook's restaurant, were in many instances not allowed to do so without a pass. The fire continued to burn more or less during the afternoon, although two or three streams of water were kept constantly playing on the building. The firemen were chained to the middle of the wall on the Nassau-st. side to tear it down. They put the chain through a window in the Morse Building, and a number of them began to pull. The end of the chain was placed in the Morse Building, and the lower part of the Morse Building, Chief of Battalion Giquel was standing at the entrance of the Morse Building at the line, and he was seen to escape with a heavy load. A half hour later the whole wall on the Nassau-st. side was pulled down, crashing against the Morse Building. The windows and the base of the building were blown away, and the solid character of the structure prevented it from sustaining much damage. The firemen then went to work to demolish the wall standing against the City Hall Park Building, and were busy until evening. The fire was extinguished, and the debris was being removed.

OPENING NEW OFFICES.
Although practically nothing was saved from the fire, a number of the firms doing business in the building at once opened offices elsewhere. Willy Wallace established himself temporarily in the Stationers' Board of Trade rooms in the Bennett Building. The New-York Belting and Packing Company secured a temporary office at No. 20 Park-row. *The Trust, Field and Farn* has a temporary office in Barclay-st., where it temporarily established headquarters. A good many of the 104 firms in the burned building found temporary abiding places before evening. The damage to *The Times* Building was placed by the publishers of that paper at \$2,000, with no insurance. The fire-wall erected about two years ago saved the upper part of it. Some holes were cut through this wall, and the firemen were able to throw streams of water into the burning building. The ashes in the upper part of the Morse Building were burned out, and some damage was done to the lower part of it, but a few thousand dollars will cover the loss.

THE OLD MAIL BUILDING. At Park-row and Beekman-st., caught fire, as has been stated, three or four times. The fire was not extinguished, and it was feared that it would have spread to the building which had not the south wall of the old *World* Building falling in an early period in the fire, thus greatly lessening the damage. A force of fire was sent to the fire and water will cause a loss of about \$3,000 or \$4,000. The building is owned by the Huggins estate. The Vanderbilt Building, at Nassau and Beekman, was also threatened, but the total loss caused by the fire will amount to something under \$1,000,000, and the insurance to \$350,000.

WORK OF THE CORNER.
Coroner Herrman, who was on duty yesterday morning, arrived at the scene of the catastrophe about 10:25 o'clock. Ellen Bull had just fallen, and he was lying in the counting room of *The Times*; he was still alive, though evidently dying. It was nearly 4 o'clock before any official notice of death was given. The body of the woman was taken to the morgue, and the body of the man was taken to the morgue. No inquiries had been made at the office. Coroner Herrman, accompanied by Coroner Knox, drove to the Chambers Street Hospital, to view the bodies which had been taken there. Coroner Herrman will impel a jury to-day, and says he will probably not hold the inquest before next week, as he thinks it probable that it will take some time for the firemen to ascertain if any more bodies are in the ruins.

In speaking of the cause of the rapid spread of the flames Coroner Herrman gave it as his opinion that the condition of the building and the newly constructed elevator shaft contributed in a large degree to the catastrophe. He had opportunity to examine the building through the fire, and he was impressed by the fact that the building was saturated "from top to bottom" with inflammable material. From long use of the premises for printing offices. The elevator shaft made a direct draft for the spread of the flames. The Coroner is of the opinion that the elevator shaft should be removed, and that the Inspector of Buildings should have power to prevent their construction in this manner. Stairways, from their winding course, do not serve to make a draft, as a straight elevator shaft does. The Coroner states, however, frequently repeated these

recommendations upon the occasions of important fires; "but still people go on building in the same dangerous way," he complained. The fire continued to burn last night after the walls for the most part had fallen. In the subterranean adjoining Beekman-st. there was a huge bed of glowing timbers several feet in depth. Here and there the wind fanned a burning stick into a flame which would flare up high on the ruins. At Park-row and Beekman-st. gas escaping from a main burned with a steady white light. Along Beekman-st. timbers and pieces of flooring projected from the adjacent side of the burning mass below, charred, black and ragged. Firemen under Chief of Battalion Mahedy kept several streams of water playing upon the ruins. One of the spots on which water was directed was on the Nassau-st. side, where several signs are known to have fallen. Another spot was on the Park-row side, near *The Times* Building, where Chief Mahedy thought he saw the bones of a woman who had been killed.

HOW THE BUILDING LOOKED.
Although the burning building had the appearance of strength and solidity when viewed from the outside, its internal construction was such as to make it exceedingly dangerous to life in case of fire. There were no party walls in the interior, and the partitions were not heavy enough for the size of the structure. Most of the floors were divided up into offices, forming a labyrinth of halls and passages. Wooden partitions abounded. Long staircases led from entrances in Nassau-st. and Park-row to the upper floors. On the second floor there was a skylight in the middle of the roof 20x15 feet in extent, and from the skylight to the lobby on the second floor there was an open space. Looking upward from the lobby, the firemen saw a narrow corridor on the third and fourth stories extending nearly around the open space. Staircases connected these corridors, and the halls branched from the landings on the various floors.

NAMES OF THE DEAD.
Six persons are known to have lost their lives. The bodies of two are at the Chambers Street Hospital. Three men employed by *The New-York Observer* were still missing at midnight, and the circumstances in their cases were such as to leave little if any doubt that they were lost. It is believed that several women employed on the fourth and fifth floors of the building also perished, as eyewitnesses say they saw more than one fall back into the flames. But the names of these unfortunate and the facts concerning them are still uncertain. It was reported last night that five girls employed in a certain office were still missing. It may prove finally that the number of the dead will reach twelve or more. The list of those concerning whom definite information has been obtained is as follows:

BULL, ELLEN, colored, age thirty-seven, employed to take charge of several of the rooms in the burned building, she was on the top floor when the fire started. She was seen to fall back into a window on the Park-row side. A bystander describes the scene. The smoke began to come out of the windows, and the fire was seen coming from the cornice. She clung there for several minutes, while the crowd yelled to her to stay there. She was seen to fall back into the flames, and she was seen to fall back into the flames. She was seen to fall back into the flames, and she was seen to fall back into the flames.

CUNNINGHAM, JOSEPH, foreman of *The Observer* composing room, was on the Park Row side of the building. When the alarm was given he was at work with others in the composing room. A risk was taken by him to go to the roof to see if he could get out of the building. He was seen to fall back into the flames, and he was seen to fall back into the flames. He was seen to fall back into the flames, and he was seen to fall back into the flames.

DAVY, RICHARD N., single, age about forty, lived at East Broadway and was employed by *The Observer* as a compositor. He was on the fourth floor of the Nassau-st. side of the building, and he was seen to fall back into the flames, and he was seen to fall back into the flames. He was seen to fall back into the flames, and he was seen to fall back into the flames.

SMITH, MARY, age about thirty, was employed on the fourth floor of the burned building. She was seen to fall back into the flames, and she was seen to fall back into the flames. She was seen to fall back into the flames, and she was seen to fall back into the flames.

HOW DR. S. I. PRIME GOT OUT.
In Room No. 138 at the Astor House a *TRIBUNE* reporter later found Dr. S. I. Prime, Editor-in-Chief of *The Observer*, and his associate editors. Dr. Prime gave the following account of his escape: "The paper was almost ready to go to press. The last proofs were being read and all the editors were in the office. I sat in the editorial room, looking over some proofs, when I heard a commotion out in the business office. I thought there was a fight out there and went to see what was the matter. When I got there some one said there was a fire, and I saw the clerks rushing for the door. I went into the entry and attempted to descend to the stairs leading to Nassau-st., but was prevented by the smoke and flames. I then turned and went down the stairs leading to Park Row. By the time I got to the street the flames had cut off all escape from the building by the stairs. I was saved by the fact that I had just come out of the building, and I was seen to fall back into the flames, and he was seen to fall back into the flames.

C. F. RICHARDS'S STORY.
C. F. Richards, a member of the New-York Belting and Packing Company, said to a *TRIBUNE* reporter: "Our firm occupied a part of the ground floor, basement and sub-cellar of the burned building. The store and cellar were filled with rubber. Continued on Second Page.

Before assistance could be rendered she fell backward into the flames.

THOSE WHO ARE INJURED.

Information was obtained that six persons were injured, but a number of others were slightly hurt in their efforts to escape from the burning building. Their injuries, however, were not of sufficient importance for them to report to the police or to the hospitals. The following is a list of the injured:

BOVIER, ROBERT, single, age thirty-eight, was the advertising agent in the office of *The Scottish-American*, on the fourth floor. He was injured by one of the windows on the Nassau-st. side, and was taken down by the firemen. He was injured by one of the windows on the Nassau-st. side, and was taken down by the firemen. He was injured by one of the windows on the Nassau-st. side, and was taken down by the firemen.

DAVON, WILLIE, of No. 248 South Fourth-st., Brooklyn, was injured in the fire. He was injured by one of the windows on the Nassau-st. side, and was taken down by the firemen. He was injured by one of the windows on the Nassau-st. side, and was taken down by the firemen. He was injured by one of the windows on the Nassau-st. side, and was taken down by the firemen.

HARRIS, CHARLES F., badly burned about the face and hands. Harris is eighteen years old, was a compositor in the *New-York Observer* office and is a nephew of the late W. H. Harris, reported as missing. He lives at No. 63 Charlton-st. He was in the composing room when the alarm was given. He was injured by one of the windows on the Nassau-st. side, and was taken down by the firemen.

WRIGHT, CHARLES, the bootblack, had his hand cut and sprained his ankle.

INQUIRIES FOR MISSING PERSONS.

During the afternoon and evening inquiries were made by several persons at the down-town station houses and the Chambers Street Hospital for missing relatives and friends. Reporters of *THE TRIBUNE* called last evening at a number of addresses given by inquiring friends, and in most cases found that the persons sought for had been found safe. In a few instances the fact that nothing had been heard from the missing persons was regarded as proof that they had not escaped from the burning building. The following is a list of persons about whom there is still some uncertainty:

BLAVER, MARY E., of Rahway, New-Jersey. A boy, Charles Francis, said she worked in the building as a compositor, but he could not say where she was employed. She was accustomed to go home to Rahway every day, and it saved many lives there. No one saw her after the fire.

MCANALAN, ROBERT, an elderly gentleman, Charles A. Seely, a chemist, said last evening that he was on the third floor when the fire started. His office adjoined that of Mr. Todd, and he was seen to fall back into the flames, and he was seen to fall back into the flames.

SMITH, MARY, age about thirty, was employed on the fourth floor of the burned building. She was seen to fall back into the flames, and she was seen to fall back into the flames. She was seen to fall back into the flames, and she was seen to fall back into the flames.

WHAT THOSE WHO ESCAPED SAY.

The Rev. Dr. E. D. G. Prime, of *The Observer*, gave the following account of his experience: "I was writing at my desk in an inner room on the third floor of the Nassau-st. side, when someone in the outer office gave an alarm of fire. It was followed almost immediately by a puff of smoke, and I judged there was no time to be lost in getting out. I had expected a fire for a long time, and as the building was a perfect tinder-box, I knew that when one occurred it would be advisable to move quickly. I caught up a bundle of papers of value, and putting on my coat ran after the clerks in the outer office. They had just taken time to close the safes, and then ran for their lives. My brother, Dr. S. I. Prime, was with me when the alarm was given, and I, on reaching the hallway, found the smoke so thick and the heat so intense that we were afraid to venture down the stairs. We opened a window and crawled along a broad stone ledge of *The World* Building to *The Times* Building, holding on by *The Observer* sign.

"My brother, who was in the street, was shouting to me to make haste. We needed no urging to hasten our movements. We descended at once from *The Times* Building to the street, and yet so rapid had been the spread of the flames that when I reached the street I could see that the desk at which I was seated was in flames. The sign alongside of which we had crept was also on fire. The rapidity with which the fire spread was almost inconceivable. Our safes were closed, but I am afraid our papers will not be saved. The files of the paper and a reference library, which we have been thirty years accumulating, are destroyed. We have a duplicate list of subscribers in the vaults of the Park Side Bank Company. We have taken rooms in *The Tribune* Building for *The Observer*."

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTRY.

PARIS, Jan. 31.—The new Ministry, constituted as announced in these dispatches yesterday, is gazetted. At a Council of Ministers held at the house of M. de Freycinet, it was decided to consider the concessions offered to England by the Gambetta Cabinet in regard to the treaty of commerce as an accomplished fact.

PROGRAMME OF THE NEW CABINET.

In the Chamber of Deputies to-day, M. de Freycinet read the programme of the new Cabinet. It sets forth that the policy of the Government will be one above all calculated to establish peace in the minds of the people, and at home and abroad it will be firm and conciliatory. Liberty and progress are necessary for France. The Government will apply in a liberal sense the laws relative to the press and the right of public meeting. A bill will be submitted sanctioning the right of association, while maintaining the rights of the State. Revision of the Constitution ought to be postponed until the expiration of the term of the present legislature. The judicial, military and educational reforms initiated by the late Cabinet will be persevered in. The efforts of the Cabinet will be directed to giving an impetus to labor. Nations do not live by politics, but by business. The Government does not intend to propose any conversion of the debt or purchase of railways by the State. No efforts will be spared to arrive at a definite solution of tariff questions, and advance the moral and intellectual condition of the people.

M. de Freycinet concluded his exposition of the policy of the new Cabinet by appealing to the Chambers to give the Government their confidence. His speech was applauded with cheers. M. Say announced that the budget presented by his predecessor would be withdrawn. M. Andreux gave notice that he would, on Thursday, submit a proposal for the cancellation of the condition of the Paris and Lyons Bourses. A grant of 6,000,000 francs for military expenses in Tunis, during February and March, 1882, was subsequently voted. M. de Freycinet intended to interpellate the Government with regard to shelving the Revision bill. In the Senate the Government's declaration of policy was applauded. The Senate will proceed to electing a President, in the person of M. Say, on Thursday. The Senate has adopted the bill for three months' prolongation of the Commercial treaties, the measure which, introduced by M. Rouvier and M. de Freycinet, passed the Chamber of Deputies yesterday.

SEQUELS OF THE PARIS FAILURE.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The Paris correspondent of *The Times* explains that the suspension of the Union Generale will have in one particular a favorable effect, as a new issue of 100,000 shares at a premium of 350 francs, which had been decided upon but not yet made, will, of course, fall through, and many persons who purchased these shares for a rise in anticipation will be saved from heavy losses. The deposits on which the Union Generale was obliged to pay interest exceeded 100,000,000 francs. The collapse speedily followed its beginning to buy its own shares.

Of the billion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance to-day, £92,000 is for shipment to Paris. The rumor in Dublin that the Union Generale had some funds of the Land League.

PARIS, Jan. 31.—The Bourse was generally depressed to-day. Sugar and wheat fell off 105 francs, and cotton 10 francs. The stock market was firm to-day. BERLIN, Jan. 31.—The settlement, considering the crisis, passed off with comparative ease.

The exact amount of the specie shipments by today's steamships it was impossible to ascertain yesterday. The Bank of America, which is the gold depository of the associated banks, has prepared for shipment \$1,500,000, but the president of the bank expressed the opinion that further demands by other banks would be made before the sailing of the steamships to-day. In any event, he said, the other banks were keeping their intentions very quiet. In reply to an inquiry as to the length of time necessary to pack a million dollars for shipment, the president of the bank declared that two hours were amply sufficient.

THE LAND LEAGUE TROUBLES.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—There have been six more arrests in the town of Millstreet, Ireland, of persons charged with treason-felony. John Dillon has written to Mr. Forster, in reply to the latter's message that if he wished to go to the Continent he could leave Kilmannagh jail, that he has addressed no communication to him, and has authorized no one to do so, and that he is not prepared to make any further communications to him.

The Dublin correspondent of *The Times* says: It has been ascertained that the murder of the process server, Mr. Huddy, and his nephew, took place in the forenoon of January 29th, at the residence of Mr. Huddy, a well-known publisher, a letter of Mr. Gladstone replying to a correspondent who urged the release of the imprisoned "aspirants." The Prime Minister says:

"The first duty of the Government is to law and order. It cannot consistently release these individuals until they have lost their power, or until the maintenance of law and order is secured. The Government has no alternative but to persevere with a most patient and firm policy."

THE EVENING STANDARD reports that orders for £200,000 in bullion for Paris have been countermanded.

FIGHTING IN THE BALKANS.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The *Manchester Guardian's* correspondent at Zara, Dalmatia, telegraphs as follows: On Monday an Austrian detachment conveying stores and powder between Nevenko and Potosha was routed and a considerable number of the Austrians were killed. A private courier near Nik, with the loss of twenty men on each side, thirty-five men from a Dalmatian regiment were killed, and a large number of the Austrians were wounded. A contract was signed with the Austrian Lloyd's to transport 30,000 men to south Dalmatian ports, and nine large steamships are to be sent to the Adriatic. The Austrians are to be sent to the Adriatic, and the Austrians are to be sent to the Adriatic.

DISASTERS WITH THEIR KING.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The Athens correspondent of *The Times* says: The reception of the King's address at the Chamber of Deputies was a making a very unpropitious. The silence was unbroken at his entry and departure. The people in the streets were equally cold. So decided an expression of public disfavor has never before been seen since the King's accession to the throne.

FOREIGN NOTES.

LONDON, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 1882. A Reuter dispatch from Berlin says that the entire Left Centre in the Chamber of Deputies have resolved to move the rejection of several items of the Prussian Budget.

A Geneva dispatch says: The party of the Will of the People has formed an association here for the relief of victims of Russian tyranny. Vera Sassulitch is a member of the committee. There was a great sensation in the Folketing at Copenhagen on Monday in consequence of a Minister of the Crown having stated that of provisions, need for spring the necessary funds by Royal orders, the crisis is acute.